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SCIENTIFIC AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION ON HUNGARY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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SCIENTIFIC AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION ON HUNGARY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

GYORGY KORITARY

[Following is a translation of an article by Lajos Tardy in Orvosi Hetilap (Doctors' Weekly), No 34, 1959, pages 1237-1238.]

In the preface to his paper outlining the history of ophthalmology in Hungary, which appeared several years ago, Geza Hahn points out that "connections with (Russian) ophthalmology should be exposed more thoroughly." The present biographical sketch attempts to serve that purpose with exposing several facts through a review of the career of Koritary.

Gyorgy Koritary was born on 6 April 1772 in the city of Korpona, in Hont Megye. Quite a large bourgeoisie of old stock lived in this old city, and the Koritary family, which gave traders, industrialists and evangelical ministers to Korpona, belonged to this class.

When Koritary finished secondary school in his home city, following the example of the protestant students of Northern Hungary he continued his studies at a university in Germany. He concluded his studies at the University of Vienna where, at the behest of Professor Frank (who later emigrated to Russia), he lectured on the field of therapy.

He was accredited as a doctor of medicine on 15 June 1801, and he completed his master of ophthalmology examination on 22 June, 1801.

Immediately after receiving his diplomas he returned to Hungary. He worked at Selmecbanya for ten months, and moved to Budapest on 1 May 1802. Although he conducted a general practice, he was occupied mainly with ophthalmology.

When Gyorgy Stahly, professor of surgery, obstetrics and ophthalmology and national ophthalmologist, died on 26 October 1802 Koritary appealed to the council of the governor general with a petition, without waiting for announcement of examinations for filling the vacant position, asking that he be immediately appointed to the position of national ophthalmologist without the announcement of competitive examinations. In his petition, to which his doctor's and ophthalmologist's diplomas were attached, he stated that he had restored the sight of more than 30 patients suffering from cataracts.

The personality and practice of Koritary is explained to a definite extent by a newspaper article, which at present would be called an advertisement, appearing in the Magyar Kurir [Hungarian Courier] in the spring of 1803 with the title: "Announcement to Persons With Affected Eyes":

"Whereas during the past year, because I lacked a suitable position befitting my profession, I successfully saved 32 mostly poor people from blindness caused by cataract: I am now in a position to offer permanent residence and appropriate care to four cataract patients for the entire duration of the summer. In the future, as in the past, I offer my services free to patients who can prove their poor status by certified letters from their priests or from their immediately superior civil officials. My lodging is at 22 Posta utca in the Staffenberg house, opposite the city theatre.

Gyorgy Koritary
Doctor of Medicine, and accredited
Ophthalmolgist of the University
of Vienna"

Although according to standards this announcement may appear to be advertising, nevertheless it is clear that Koritary's partially free opthalmic hospital may be considered a modest precurser of the activity of Frigyes Grosz at Nagyvarad.

As it may have been foreseen, the competition for the post of national ophthalmologist was announced.

In his competitive application Koritary wrote that even during his studies abroad the only goal which he kept in sight was that as soon as he had completed his training in all the medical disciplines, and primarily in ophthalmology, he wished to return among his countrymen so that his homeland may enjoy the fruits of his work. In his argument he wrote that for two years, and indeed for a longer period, he aided poor patients without discrimination, and during this period he restored the sight of more than one hundred persons through eye surgery at Selmec and at Budapest.

He submitted ten affidavits from cured patients in support of the latter statement.

It would not be without interest to examine a few of these affidavits more closely.

Antal Torone, a brass founder and citizen of Budapest, declares that his brother-in-law, 22-year-old Vitus Hartell, also a brass founder, was operated upon unsuccessfully by Dr. Stahly in the month of April, and then was operated upon successfully by Dr. Koritary on 31 October, who removed a cataract from the patient's right eye.

Zsigmond Vatsay, a tenant farmer, deposes that for four years Dr. Stahly was unable to improve the condition of his sightless wife, but Dr. Koritary restored the sight of both her eyes, etc., etc.

Koritary closes his petition with the confident promise that one day he will be of no small service to the good of the country.

The medical faculty of the university, the academic committee and the council of the governor general placed Elek Agoston first among the candidates, but nevertheless they thought it fitting to recognize Koritary's "excellent training, ability and achievements." The Hungarian chancellery awarded him a salary increase of 300 forints, and desired to have a new office created, according to which Dr. Agoston would remain permanently at the academic chair at Budapest, and Koritary would travel throughout the country, treating in the various localities those eye patients who lacked the funds to travel to Budapest.

However, his prospects collapsed as soon as the matter of the decision of the competition reached the council of state.

According to the council of the governor general, although Koritary, "has given much patent evidence of his ability in the surgical treatment and therapy of affections of the eye and would be fully deserving of being appointed to a position second to Elek Agoston if the position of national ophthalmologist were the only consideration; however, because the position of national ophthalmologist is merged into one with the academic chair of ophthalmology he is not approved because he is not qualified to fill the professorial position. However, it is commonly known of Gyorgy Koritary that he evidences extraordinary ability in surgery, and in addition, has supported several needy persons with lodging and board in his own home despite his small income, and has received special distinctions deserving of consideration, and because it is desirable that such a man be retained for the good of the country," nevertheless, state councillor Janos Somogyi boldly stated in the state council that the sum of 300 forints may be applied only to the salary of professors and "not for such vagabond oculists," and called Koritary a common charlatan.

Thus we cannot be surprised that the governor on 8 March 1804 appointed Elek Agoston -- who held the position of national ophthalmologist and university professor until 1809 without leaving the least literary trace of his activity -- with the notation that: "Koritary's petition is to be simply laid aside."

Beyond a doubt Koritary, had bitten off more than he could chew when, hardly two years after taking his diploma, and without a long practice and scientific work, he applied for such a high office. In evaluating this, however, we must not forget that Dr. Agoston, the successful candidate, began his activity in 1800 as an assistant professor and, although he had a master's certificate in ophthalmology, he worked at a chair of internal medicine, and later as a chair of surgery, and thus was little occupied with ophthalmological practice. He developed no academic work before or after the competition.

Our thinking may be along the right lines in seeking the cause for the rejection, or more accurately: the shameful failure, elsewhere. It is true that in 1782, on the basis of the tolerance decree, two Evangelical professors were appointed to the university, but after their deaths action was taken "to avoid this trouble," and for 30 years thereafter no non-Catholic person was appointed to a professorial chair.

When Lenhossek went to Vienna in 1819 and the chair of physiology of the Budapest university was vacated, Purkinje was one of the candidates for the vacant post. He also was rejected because "his lecturing style often is vague and poorly organized," etc. Nevertheless, Purkinje later became a world-famous physiologist...

In 1804, during the initial phase of the upswing in medical training in Russia, Koritary's Vienna master, Peter Frank, was called to Moscow by the Russian government. Koritary, who obviously was disturbed more by the unusually disparaging "ascertainments" appended to his rejection than by the rejection itself, in the summer of 1805 requested a passport for a three-years' study trip to Russia.

However, the passport request did not pass the chancellery. The reasons given by Koritary were insufficient basis for awarding the passport.

Almost one year later, in August 1806, Koritary received an invitation to the chair of pathology and therapy of the university of Kharkov. A chancellry official wrote upon his request: "Passport will be granted as soon as the applicant officially proves that he actually has been awarded an academic chair at Kharkov." This was done, and in the late fall of 1806 Koritary was in Russia.

Although the university of Kharkov officially opened in 1806, standard, complete instruction began several years later. The first few years were devoted mostly to organizational work, intertwined with the training of a limited number of doctors.

According to Russian sources of this period Koritary took a full role in the work of the organization of the medical faculty of the university of Kharkov, which later became very famous.

In 1807 he laid the bases for the university library. Because his academic chair did not completely occupy all his time and strength, he also accepted the position of chief surgeon of the Kharkov militia. In the same year he turned to the university council with a request that he be permitted to give free treatment to poor eye patients, and to place a notice to that effect in the newspapers. He gave a lecture in Latin, in which he supported study of the natural sciences based on philosophy. This lecture also appeared in print.

According to the chronicles of the university of Kharkov, his lectures in pharmacology were based on Tramsdorf, and he taught medicine and medical history on the basis of his own notes.

Koritary died in 1810. His life and work is an exceptionally interesting fact of the early medical historical relations between Hungary and Russia, and it would be worthwhile to study his life and scientific activity more thoroughly.

WAGES, SALARIES AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE ORION ENTERPRISE

[Following is a translation of unsigned RFE, Item 1163/60.]

Sixty percent of the plant personnel work in three shifts, including the prefabrication, semi-finished products and the production shops. The remaining shops have two, and one-shift cycles. An example is the Design Department.

Wages and salaries, with the exception of the director general, conform to the collective contract.

Director General Berczelli receives a so-called "special individual salary." His salary was determined by the KGM minister, personally. Certain outstanding skilled workers and designers also may receive special individual wages in certain cases. In this case decisions are made by the director general conjointly with the minister.

The monthly salary of Director General Berczelli is 5,400 forints gross, without effecting his pension.

The average hourly wage paid at the Orion Enterprise was five forints. The lowest hourly wage was 3.60 forints, and the highest eight forints. Hourly wages higher than the latter also were paid by the plant, including 10, 11 and 12 forints per hour. The last three named were "special hourly wages," paid to communist brigade members.

Profit-Sharing and Loyalty Bonus

The profit-sharing sum equalled the total of eight to 14 days' wages, providing there were no preventing circumstances. The latter includes, for example, two days' unexcused absence, in which case 30 percent of the profit share of a worker was deducted. If a workers' record showed four days' unexcused absence, the entire sum of his profit share was withheld.

The plant paid a loyalty bonus to personnel employed at the enterprise for more than two years, during which time no disciplinary action was taken against the personnel. The loyalty bonus equalled two percent of the profit-sharing sum.

Hidden Norms

The wages established for physical laborers are set by the so-called "hidden norms." The "hidden norm" defines the performance of the personnel involved in accordance with a certain wage; in the event of unfulfillment the personnel are rated at a lower hourly category (wage). For example, 12 drum-type transformers had to be tuned per day in the Brain assembly shop. This was a great problem because at starting even the best skilled worker could not, and because of the great responsibility did not want to, tune more than two or three drum transformers per day. The 12-unit daily output was established by an effort made by the communist brigade of the plant, receiving special hourly wages (10 forints in this case), to resolve the problem, and tuned 12 transformers instead of two or three. Thereupon, beginning in February 1959, this became the daily output requirement for technicians and skilled workers.

There was no tool depreciation norm in the Orion plant.

Technical Premiums

At the Orion Enterprise there are certain goal tasks which occasionally merit the awarding of premiums. Examples of these are the preparation of the new type production before dealine, or the designing of a work-input device. (The work-input device was completed in the spring of 1959.) A work-input device produces diapositives in a cable for functioning- and life-tests of television sets. A group consisting of 20 engineers and 60 personnel worked on this design project. When this device was completed, at a cost of 350,000 forints, three leading designers: engineers Mihaly Kovacs, Geza Szabo and Sandor Laszip received premiums of 10,000 forints each. One technical engineer (NU) received a premium of 4,500 forints. The technical personnel of the group were awarded premiums of 3,000 to 5,000 forints.

Innovations and Inventions

These are very complicated and intricate problems at the plant. The success of individual innovations or inventions is ensured only if the innovators or inventors, either secretly or openly, make a member of the examining and judging organ materially interested in the matter. In such a case the acceptance and results of the evaluation of innovations and inventions are not in doubt. Volumes may be written on the innovations and inventions developed and paid for, but never realized, at the Orion Enterprise, alone.

An example of this is the polystyrol oval loudspeaker (invention) which was developed in 1958-1959.

This invention was not accepted until the inventors (in this case secretly) made Erik Hermann, a departmental head of the Bureau of Inventions, a materially interested party via a contract. Thus the further handling and success of this undoubtedly good invention was ensured. Shortly after the "conclusion of contract" by the "contracting parties" the Bureau of Inventions accepted the polystyrol oval loudspeaker, and after its acceptance they received 18,000 forints by way of an advance payment.

ORION EXPERTS HAMPERED BY RAW MATERIALS AND SPARE PARTS BOTTLENECK

[Following is a translation of unsigned RFE Item 1164/60]

Elektroimpex performs export duties for Orion Enterprise, and the "commercial traveler" of the enterprise Lenderer, conjointly with Elektroimpex, resolves the problems of foreign business matters. The Radio Electrical Appliances Enterprise and the Orion Service market the plant's products.

The Orion Enterprise is concerned with the planning and production of new models in proportion to the foreign market and capable of competing with the foreign market. Thus the planning and investment preparation of four or five modern new models was conducted simultaneously at the plant. If it is taken into consideration that the Orion Enterprise produced only two new models or two further perfected models per year, it is easily conceivable that the technical development team, which had been greatly broken up and separated after the revolution, could not produce the desired results with the addition of only ten personnel. To this was added the fact that well broken-in skilled personnel of the team were discharged from the enterprise because of (counter-revolutionary activity." ((fmu) Ivanyi, and (fmu) Huszti, television and accoustic specialists.) Although technicians of equal value and with more training were employed in their stead, the merging of these personnel with the local customs lasted a fairly long time, and conceivably still has not been accomplished.

Difficulties in General

The tooling-up and preparation for new models before deadline has a crucial influence on the beginning of production. The forced development leaves gaps in production, and for example, in the summer of 1959 the tools were planned and designed before a prototype was completed.

If we take into account the fact that a necessary change in an insignificant party may require changes in an entire tool group it becomes clear that this may result only in delays in the case that planning already is overburdened.

Special difficulties were caused by the fact that production of the bakelite housing for the people's superheterodyne radio receiver (ultra-short wave, so-called world-wide receiver) could begin only with importing four giant presses, and although the building for housing the giant presses was not completed until May 1959, past deadline, construction constantly was being continued while production was in progress.

Prefabricated, and in many cases pre-assembled parts for production-line manufacture (production planning) had to arrive in mesh with other production steps, almost like clockwork. This, however, was a very rare occurrence. The same situation was true with respect to television sets, with the additional complication that the raw materials and finished products ordered abroad did not arrive in time, partly because of foreign exchange currency difficulties and partly because changes which had been made in the orders in the meanwhile, and thus major parts had to be redesigned or re-worked with lightening speed at the last minute (this may be taken very literally).

There is still another considerable difficulty which may be applied to the Orion Enterprise. Because of certain ties of friendship or blood between the KGM chief officials and the Szekesfehervar Hunting Ammunition Plant (presently: Electrical Appliance Television Radio Plant) was absolved from all the conditions which the Orion plant must observe in cooperation with other enterprises. The hunting ammunition plant produces almost all its own parts in a closed cycle, and thus is able to coordinate the above-mentioned "intermeshed" system within its own sphere of action. The Orion Enterprise, however, is dependent upon the Hunting Ammunition Plant, the Cable Plant, the Radio Cabint Plant, and to a small extent, to the O utca Communications Technology Tool Plant. The last mentioned plants also are enterprises which are bound to fulfillment of production plans, are concerned primarily with fulfilling or overfulfilling the activities prescribed by the KGM, and thus it is quite inconsequential to them whether they meet their deadlines for the Orion Enterprise, or not.

In many cases a few flexible, multi-talented skilled personnel of the Orion Enterprise (this is taken to include certain engineers of the technological department and certain technical development engineers) took emergency measures for the solution of problems, and only by this means was the enterprise able to bridge a lag which otherwise could have been much worse. Undoubtedly these skilled personnel enjoyed certain special considerations and esteem from the system, such as special pay, allowance of trips abroad, allegedly for "study," profit-sharing and loyalty bonuses, etc., etc.

An unhealthy competition developed between the Hunting Ammunition and Orion enterprises. The "Munkacsi" large-screen television receiver produced by the Hunting Ammunition plant has been far less successful than any model produced by Orion, but nevertheless the Hunting Ammunition plant enjoys more subsidies than the Orion Enterprise. If an enterprise does not have direct connections with a member of the "new class" (friendship or blood relation), its hands are tied in all fields of production. For example: if the director general of the Hunting Ammunition plant, Istvan Papp, orders a non-standard material for the plant, the KGM vice minister, Richard Kolozs (Papp and Kolozs are related by blood), personally arranges for immediate and exceptional production of this material by an apnopriate plant, such as the Lenin Metallurgical Mill. In contrast the Orion Enterprise (without personal ties) is forced to use standard materials, which in very many cases requires revision of design.

Investments

Through the mediation of the Orion Enterprise the cooperating and prefabricating enterprises have received investment allowances for expansion. However, these enterprises still have not been expanded or developed through use of the funds available for this purpose, and the lack of this expansion is detrimental to the Orion Enterprise. For example, great losses were caused by the fact that the Radio Cabinet Plant was not moved from Ujpest to Fajsz within the prescribed time. If the enterprises cooperating with the Orion plant do not expand their plants by the end of 1959 with the investment funds available to them, Orion may count on a serious lag in 1960, which is not within its own control. In this connection it may be mentioned that the enterprise plans to produce 70,000 television receivers in 1960. In addition to the above, this also would require that the two new plant sections (television production lines) should be working at full capacity at present. This, however, is not probable, because in the summer of 1959 construction still was in an early stage, and because of the lag in construction they will not be ready for production before the summer of 1960.

In May 1959 Berceli, Lederer and Gogo went to Stockholm and contracted for the first export trade to the Scandinavian states (including Norway). Upon their return, according to the words of Berceli he received great moral support from the fact that from among products of the same type and price the Swedish buyers preferred the Hungarian Orion product over the products of the competing companies (CSR, West Germany, Great Britain and France).

The dependence of the Orion Enterprise upon outside materials, necessitating making its programing dependent upon the cooperating enterprises. For example: rotating condensers are shipped by the Hunting Ammunition Plant; electrolytic condensers, block capacitors,

composition resistors, resistors, potentiometers and switches are shipped by Remix; cable and insulating materials are shipped by the Cable Plant (this no longer is a burning problem of the Orion plant); bakelite parts and radio cabinets are shipped by the Radio Cabinet Plant; dial glasses are shipped by the Zagyvapalfalva plant. As already has been mentioned, these enterprises are required to fulfill production plans within their own schedule profiles, and thus it is of primary interest to them to fulfill their own production plans, which latter do not define precisely the shipping deadlines with respect to individual cooperating plants. Thus in most cases of delayed shipment the Orion plant is forced to shift to the production of items for which it has production parts in stock, even though such items may not be essential to the consumer market. Because of this there has been a long-standing effort in the Orion Enterprise to effect closed-cycle production in the plant, or to manufacture most of the production parts in their own plant. However, for some unknown reason in every case the Communications Technology Administration crosses out the computations of the enterprise leadership, although the Plan Office, as superior authority, no longer is as great a power as it was during the time of Zoltan Vas.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE "ORION" RADIO FACTORY

[Following is a translation of unsigned RFE Item 994/60.]

The "Orion" Radio and Electrical Appliance Enterprise is located at Jaszberenyi ut 29, Budapest X. Hungary. An annex of the enterprise, the "Orion" Thermos Bottle and Vacuum Technology Enterprise, is located at Vaci ut 76-78, Budapest. The latter enterprise previously was the Kremenecky Janos Tungsten Bulb Plant.

The total personnel of "Orion" numbered 3,680, of whom 3,400 were continuously on the job, and 280 were itinerants, sick or on leave.

The Marketing Division and Service Center of the plant was located on Lenin Korut, in the Sixth District.

The enterprise is under the Ministry of the Metallurgical and Machine Industries (Szabadsag ter 6, Budapest V), and its superior authority is the Communications Technology Administration. The head of the Communications Technology Administration is Richard Kolozs, vice minister and engineer. The official in charge of "Orion's" subject matter at the administration is Erno Tiborc, a mechanical engineer with the title and status of director. In 1954-1955 Erno Tiborc was director general of the Telephone Plant.

The Enterprise Management

The technical and commercial administration of the enterprise is effected by the Management. The director, with title of director general, is Bela Berceli, a member of the Hungarian Socialist Labor Party, a retired major general and former chief of the army communications branch. Berceli came to the head of the enterprise in January 1956.

Berceli is a highly limited, stubborn man, lacking technical training, who carries out party directives to the letter. He has no individualistic concepts. Berceli is 47 years old, is married and has a family.

The head of the secretariate is Bela Zentai, 45 years old (not an engineer), and party member. He came to the enterprise in 1955. In Berceli's absence Zentai, together with the Enterprise chief engineer, takes the place of the director general.

The head of the chief engineer's office, and chief engineer of the enterprise, is mechanical engineer Laszlo Goga (former captain under Horthy, Signum Laudis), a party member. Goga is a 52-year-old family man of indefinite character. He receives his political protection from the director general. He is a good commercial expert, and arrived at the enterprise in 1955.

The head of the Production Department is Janos Vavra, 48 years old, and a party member. He acquired his professional training at the Telephone Plant; he arrived at the "Orion" plant in 1955. He is relatively well skilled in his office, but otherwise is of weak character and badly alcoholic.

The chief of the personnel department is Janos Hollosi, 32 years of age and a member of the party. No data are available on his character.

Manpower management: chief is Janos Lenart, born in Mezokovesd, 28 years old and a party member. Lenart is a former AVH second lieutenant, and is assistant chief of the Labor Guard of the enterprise; he is of surprisingly good disposition and is a relatively decent peasant boy.

Head bookkeeper's office. The name of the head bookkeeper is unknown.

The head of the marketing division is Sandor Lederer, 55 years old, party member, and commander of the Labor Guard. Lederer has a record of multiple convictions (fraud in the decade of 1930, receiving stolen goods 1946-1948). His assistant is Gyorgy Varkonyi, 55 years old, a commercial expert and non-party-member. Varkonyi was formerly co-owner of the "Tonalit" Phonograph Record Plant, who was imprisoned for two years following nationalization for foreign currency smuggling. In practice he is the head of the marketing division.

Lederer and his wife spend most of the year abroad on business trips. When he returns from individual trips abroad he used to recuperate at the Tiheny resort of the Ministry of the Interior. The average time spent there was 10 to 14 days. At the enterprise it is said that Lederer is a confidential agent of the Ministry of the Interior, planted at the enterprise, who first reports on the success of his trips abroad to the proper division of the Ministry of the Interior at the Tihany resort. In numerous cases Lederer did not visit the enterprise upon returning from abroad, but after a two-week stay at Tihany he left the country again. This was the case late in April 1959, when he was at Lisbon for three weeks, returned to Hungary, and from Tihany he flew directly to Helsinki for commercial conferences. At the enterprise Lederer is spoken of as one who has yet to bring good business to the plant.

The head of the Social Division is a woman (NU), a party member who is 40 years old and is one of the oldest employees of the enterprise (22 years).

The chief surgeon of the medical clinic as of the spring of 1959 was Dr. Andras Mohos. Mohos was replaced in May. The name of the new doctor is unknown. In the spring of 1959 "Orion" was named an independent sick pay disbursement enterprise, and was included in the Tenth District SZTK organization. Its superior Public Health authority is the welfare center on Kobanya ut.

Party Organization and the Labor Union

The exempted party secretary of "Orion" is a man named (fnu) Ordas or Orsos. The enterprise is divided into 12 basic organizations, and thus each basic organization has a non-exempted party secretary. For example, the party secretary of the Technical Development party basic organization is Karoly Simigla. The exempted party secretary acts as technical and commercial advisor, but he actually does not avail himself of this role because director general Berceli personally has a very good standing with the party.

The exempted labor union secretary is Janos Olah, 33 years old, and a party member. Mechanical engineer Olah is a quiet, simple, good natured man.

The labor union has stewards for each division. Thus, for example, the names of three labor union stewards are known in Technical Development: Bela Harami, non-party-member, captain of the plant soccer team, Jozsef Toth, Hungarian Socialist Labor Party member, and Jozsef Harangozo, non-party-member.

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NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE PILSEN AREA

[Following is a translation of unsigned RFE Item 963/60]

Construction of a dam in Pilsen, on the river Mza, near the town of Holostrevy, will begin soon. In the meantime the work of surveying is being done. At the same time preparations are being made for the transfer of the population from the villages which will later be flooded; an example of these are the villages of Butov and Vranov. The dam is being built to improve the electrification of the Pilsen area.

During the last half of 1959 the well-known prison at Bory in the Pilsen area was abolished (abbreviated NPT - Correctional Labor Camp Number 1); its grounds were taken over by the neighboring artillery facilities. The Bory prison was moved to the former district court prison in the block bounded by Veleslavinovy and Dominikanska streets.

The transmitters of the Pilsen radio station situated in the suburb of "Kosutka" close by the Karlovy Vary highway will be moved to the area of the town of Stipoklasy, about 35 km toward Karlovy Vary. It is said that this was done for the benefit of the jamming station of the Ministry of the Interior which in addition to its function "covered" the Pilsen station. The jamming station of the Ministry of the Interior is also located in the suburb "Kosutka".

In 1958 Dr. Krepinsky (fnu) was imprisoned and sentenced for alleged anti-state activity; he was at one time mayor of the city of Pilsen. Krepinsky, originally a member of the Czechoslovak National Socialist Party, immediately after February 1948 joined the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (CORRESPONDENT'S COMMENT: The informer stated that he did this demonstratively), and by so doing he lost popularity among the public. Until his arrest he worked in the sales establishment of the Ministry of Construction No. 2 at Pilsen as a legal consultant. Dr. Krepinsky was sentenced to 18 months of imprisonment.

In 1958 Sebelik (fnu), former director of the "Pilsen Breweries" was sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment for alleged unfriendly foreign contacts dating from the period before 1952. The career of Professor Dr. Karel Bobek, his son-in-law, who has an important position and is a publicly-known worker in Pilsen, did not suffer.

During the political purges in the ranks of the university staff of the Pilsen Medical Faculty in the beginning of 1959 several well known professors were dismissed. Among those dismissed were: Professor Dr. Vaclav Pitha (neurologist), Professor Dr. Stepan (fnu) (chemistry), Professor Dr. Krajnik (fnu) (apparently biology), assistant Dr. Kubicek (fnu) (internist), etc.

It is generally known that the enterprise "Ejpovice Smelting Works" shows among other deficiencies an especially low yield of metal from the ore. In the Pilsen area for this reason this enterprise is ironically called: The Enterprise of Jan Neruda...

On the crossroads of the highways Cheb-Karlovy Vary and Cheb-Pilsen there is a commemorative obelisk erected after the Second World War in honor of the fallen members of the American Army. It is however surrounded by high and thick growing bushes which have the "purpose" of preventing a view of the monument, perhaps even to hide it.

On Stalin Street in Pilsen during the coming months the original first Pilsen cinema "Alfa" will be reopened. After February 1948 it had been changed to a textile warehouse.

In the spring of last year (1959) Dr. Josef Koukolik was named district doctor at Bezcruzice, district Stribro. His predecessor, a doctor of German descent, was arrested because of suspicion of anti-state activities. Dr. Koukolik spent several years in Western Germany where he illegally escaped from Czechoslovakia. Sometime in the years 1956 or 1957 he returned voluntarily to Czechoslovakia.

The redefector Zakostelecky (fnu), about 30 years old, at one time, toward the end of 1958, accompanied the writer Pluhar during his talks in the Pilsen area where he talked about his book "Pustis-li mne..." [If you leave me..."]. Zakostelecky is now working as a laborer in the district of Stribro.

The national enterprise "Pozemni stavby" in Pilsen is building houses in the "Slovany" quarter. The director of the "Pozemni stavby" enterprise is the young builder Cenek Tomsik. The above-mentioned enterprise was recently honored several times as one of the best in the republic.

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